

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in the application.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that the application contains claims directed to three patentably distinct inventions, and to nine patentably distinct species. In particular, invention I was indicated by the Examiner to include claims 1 - 23, 37 - 39, and 46 - 48, and to be drawn to a method of processing a lens face, classified in class 451, subclass 42, and species 1 was indicated by the Examiner to set forth a peripheral rim as shown in Fig. 1A.

By this Response, Applicants elect invention I, characterized by claims 1 - 23, 37 - 39, and 46 - 48, and further elect species 1, represented by the Fig. 1A showing a peripheral rim.

This election is made without traverse.

Applicants submit that at least the following claims read on the elected species: claims 1 - 8, 10 - 13, 15 - 23, 37, 38, and 46 - 48.

Claims 9, 14, 24 - 36, and 39 - 45 are accordingly withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims in one or more divisional applications.

Related Cases

Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention two applications submitted to the U.S. PTO, which are formally related to the present case (hereinafter referred to as "the related applications"). U.S. Patent Application No. 10/755,665 was filed on January 13, 2004 as a continuation-in-part of the present application, and has since been granted as U.S. Patent No.

7,121,931. U.S. Patent Application No. 11/451,557 was filed on June 13, 2006 as a divisional of the aforementioned continuation-in-part, and has yet to receive an examination on the merits.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the claims presented in the present application *de novo*. In considering the allowability of claims in the present case, any disclaimers made in the related applications, and any prior art which those disclaimers may have been made to avoid, may need to be re-visited. See Nouri E. Hakim v. Cannon Avent Group, et al., 479 F.3d 1313, 1318 (Fed. Cir. 2007)

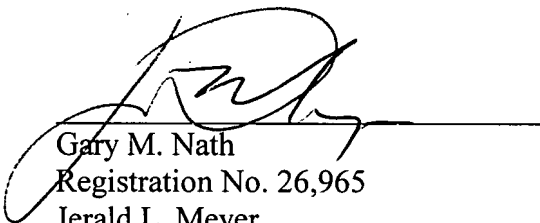
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner conduct a substantive examination of the application. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this matter, the Examiner is welcomed to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number and address.

Respectfully submitted,
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